

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. *(previously presented)* A latex reagent for quantitatively measuring adiponectin, comprising a suspension of latex particles carrying an anti-adiponectin polyclonal antibody that binds to native adiponectin.
2. *(cancelled)*
3. *(currently amended)* A method for quantitatively measuring native adiponectin, comprising the steps of:
  - (1) obtaining a biological liquid possibly containing adiponectin, and
  - (2) bringing the biological liquid, without pretreatment of said liquid to obtain monomeric adiponectin or predilution, into contact with a suspension of latex particles carrying an anti-adiponectin polyclonal antibody that binds to native adiponectin, and optically analyzing a degree of latex-particles-agglutination, wherein said degree of latex-particle agglutination correlates to the level of adiponectin in said liquid.
4. *(cancelled)*
5. *(previously presented)* The latex reagent according to claim 1, wherein the latex particles do not carry an anti-adiponectin monoclonal antibody.
6. *(previously presented)* The method according to claim 3, wherein the latex particles do not carry an anti-adiponectin monoclonal antibody.

7. (currently amended) A method for quantitatively measuring the level of native adiponectin in a biological liquid, consisting of the steps of:

- (1) obtaining a biological liquid possibly containing adiponectin; and
- (2) bringing the biological liquid, without predilution or other pretreatment, into contact with a suspension of latex particles carrying an anti-adiponectin polyclonal antibody that binds to native adiponectin, and optically analyzing a degree of latex-particle-agglutination, wherein said degree of latex-particle agglutination correlates to the level of adiponectin in said liquid.